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10/606,770

06/27/2003

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06/14/2006

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EXAMINER

LIN, SHEW FEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2166

DATE MAILED: 06/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/606,770 | BERESNEVICHENE, YOLANTA | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Shew-Fen Lin | 2166 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- a. This action is responsive to amendment filed on March 23, 2006.
- b. Claims 1-17 and 21-28 are pending. Claims 1-17 are amended and claims 21-28 are new added.

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in United Kingdom on 7/2/2002. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the 0215198.3 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Applicant is reminded that in order for a patent issuing on the instant application to obtain the benefit of priority based on priority papers filed in parent Application No. 0215198.3 on 7/2/2002 under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), a claim for such foreign priority must be timely made in this application. To satisfy the requirement of 37 CFR 1.55(a)(2) for a certified copy of the foreign application, applicant may simply identify the application containing the certified copy.

Withdrawal of Rejections/Objections

Applicants' amendments overcome the 101 rejection and claim objections. Examiner hereby withdrawn the rejection/objections that were given in the previous Office Action.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendments and remarks have been fully and carefully considered. In response to these amendments, another iteration of claim analysis, based on previously relied on

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references (Kaler et al. US Publish 2003/0074356, Zhang et al. ,US Pattern 6,944627, Talati, US Patent 5,999,942) and new prior art (Malcolm et al. , US Publish 2002/0165877), and particularly addressing the newly amended limitation and new claims, has been embarked. Refer to the corresponding sections of the claim analysis for details.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8-14, 17, and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaler et al. (US Publish 2003/0074356) in view of Zhang et al. (US Pattern 6,944627, hereinafter referred as Zhang).

As to claims 1 and 8, Kaler discloses a method/system/apparatus for generating a storage specification for a document (ACL control for the files, paragraph [0005], lines 1-9), the document having associated with it at least one storage label (metadata type reads on label, Figure 3, paragraph [0009], lines 1-6, paragraph [0033], lines 1-7, paragraph [0051], lines 11-19), the apparatus comprising a storage specification template database for determining storage

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specification templates according to storage labels associated with documents (Figure 5, paragraph [0044], lines 1-6), a rules database comprising rules for resolving conflicts between conflicting storage specification templates (paragraph [0046], lines 14-23) and a storage specification generator for generating a storage specification for the document (merge, interact, or replace metadata, paragraph [0047], lines 1-5) based on storage specification templates determined by the storage specification template database and the rules obtained from the rule database (based on metadata and rules, paragraph [0047]).

Kaler discloses the elements of claims 1 and 8 as noted above but does not explicitly disclose storing metadata (template) and rule in databases.

Zhang discloses a hierarchical database to including tables at different levels to store data/metadata (Figure 2, column 1, column 50-55, column 2, lines 26-28). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Kaler's disclosure to store metadata/rule in a hierarchical database as taught by Zhang for the purpose of efficient usage of storage and fast storing and retrieving data (column 1, lines 39-47, Zhang). The skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the invention of Kaler per the above such that metadata or rules can be selected from different hierarchical levels of tree vertically and/or across several metadata (label) types horizontally (column 4, lines 31-42, Zhang).

As to claims 2 and 10, Kaler discloses a hierarchy database having a specification template hierarchy and rules database comprises hierarchy rules for reconciling storage

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specification template conflicts according to the relative storage specification hierarchy (natural hierarchy is as decision making, paragraph [0049]).

Kaler discloses the elements of claim 2 as noted above but does not explicitly disclose specification template hierarchy and rules database.

Zhang discloses a hierarchical database to including tables at different levels to store data/metadata (Figure 2, column 1, column 50-55, column 2, lines 26-28).

As to claims 3 and 11, Kaler discloses the rules database comprises inter-label storage specification template conflict resolution rules (paragraph [0047], lines 5-16).

Kaler discloses the elements of claim 3 as noted above but does not explicitly disclose specification template hierarchy and rules database.

Zhang discloses a hierarchical database to including tables at different levels to store data/metadata (Figure 2, column 1, column 50-55, column 2, lines 26-28).

As to claims 4 and 13, Kaler discloses a storage specification template comprises a plurality of fields (Figure 4, paragraph [0038]).

As to claims 5 and 14, Kaler discloses the rules database provides default entries for uninstantiated fields in the storage specification template (paragraph [0050]).

Kaler discloses the elements of claim 5 as noted above but does not explicitly disclose specification template hierarchy and rules database.

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Zhang discloses a hierarchical database to including tables at different levels to store data/metadata (Figure 2, column 1, column 50-55, column 2, lines 26-28).

As to claim 9, Kaler discloses at least one storage specification field is of a storage specification template (paragraph [0052], lines 4-8).

As to claim 12, Kaler discloses the hierarchy rules are applied before the inter-label storage specification template rules (conflict between two levels of the metadata hierarchy is applied before metadata elements refer to the same scope, paragraph [0046], lines 14-23, paragraph [0048], l 1-5).

As to claim 17, Kaler discloses a storage specification for the document is output and associated with the document (Figures 8-11, paragraph [0054], lines 1-11, paragraph [0057], lines 1-5).

As to claims 21 and 22, Kaler discloses wherein the computer apparatus initially reconciles storage specification template conflicts according to the relative storage specification hierarchy (natural hierarchy is as decision making, paragraph [0049]), and then the computer apparatus resolves conflicts among particular ones of the storage labels that would cause different numeric or character values being inputted to a particular field in a storage specification template (Figure 7, paragraph [0048], lines 1-6), in accordance with predetermined conflict

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resolution rules stored in the rules database for the particular field and the particular ones of the storage labels (paragraph [0047], lines 11-16, paragraph [0049], lines 1-4).

Claims 6 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaler and Zhang (hereinafter referred as Kaler-Zhang) as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and further in view of Talati (US Patent 5,999,942).

As to claims 6 and 15, Kaler-Zhang discloses the elements of claims 1 and 4 as noted above but does not explicitly disclose if there is an uninstantiated field in the storage specification template a user query is referred to a user interface in order to obtain user-inputted information to provide information to be inputted to the uninstantiated field.

Talati discloses a method to interact with user using user interface to add attribute (column 5, lines 29-30, column 7, lines 47-48, column 8, lines 38-41, column 13, lines 41-55). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Kaler-Zhang's disclosure to provide user interface for uninstantiated field as taught by Talati for the purpose of preventing empty field in the specification (column 13, lines 49-55, Talati). The skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the invention of Kaler-Zhang per the above such that storage specification will contain all the required fields.

Claims 23 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaler, Zhang, and Talati (hereinafter referred as Kaler-Zhang-Talati) as applied to claims 1, 4, and 6

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above, and further in view of Malcolm et al. (US Publish, 2002/0165877, hereinafter referred as Malcolm).

As to claims 23 and 26, Kaler-Zhang-Talati discloses the elements of claims 1, 4, and 6 as noted above but does not explicitly discloses wherein the user is provided with a drop-down display that includes values that can be entered for the uninstantiated field, and wherein, once the user makes a selection on the drop-down display, the selected value is stored in the uninstantiated field.

Malcolm discloses a drop down menu is display and value of one of the fields is chosen and saved when the field values are missing or conflicting (paragraph [0017], lines 20-22, lines 34-35, lines 37-39). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Kaler-Zhang-Talati's disclosure to provide drop-down menu with values to be entered as taught by Malcolm for the purpose of saving time in typing and minimizing error (paragraph [0002], lines 22-25, Malcolm). The skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the invention of Kaler per the above such that value for the uninstantiated field can be selected from drop-down menu.

Claims 7, 16, 24-25, and 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaler and Zhang (hereinafter referred as Kaler-Zhang) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Malcolm.

As to claims 7 and 16, Kaler-Zhang discloses the elements of claim 1 as noted above and rule database determines that a conflict between storage specification templates exists for at least one field common to the storage specification templates (element X and X' are conflicting, Figure 7, paragraph [0048], lines 1-6) if the rules database determines that a conflict between storage specification templates exists and no rule is provided to reconcile the conflict (conflicting metadata may be selected, paragraph [0047], lines 11-13), but does not explicitly disclose a user query is generated to a user interface in order to obtain user-inputted information to provide information to be inputted to the at least one field to thereby reconcile the conflict.

Malcolm discloses select a different field value to satisfy field requirement (paragraph [0017], lines 38-41). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify Kaler-Zhang's disclosure to provide user interface to resolve conflict as taught by Malcolm for the purpose of correcting unresolved conflict (paragraph [0020], lines 29-33, Malcolm). The skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the invention of Kaler-Zhang per the above such that conflict can be resolved.

As to claims 24 and 27, Kaler-Zhang discloses the elements of claims 1 and 7 as noted above but does not explicitly disclose wherein the user is provided with a drop-down display that includes values that can be entered for the at least one field, and wherein, once the user makes a selection on the drop-down display, the selected value is stored in the at least one field.

Malcolm discloses a drop down menu is display and value of one of the fields is chosen and saved when the field values are conflicting (paragraph [0017], lines 20-22, lines 34-35, lines 37-39, paragraph [0019], lines 7-8). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

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the art at the time of invention was made to modify Kaler-Zhang's disclosure to provide drop-down menu with values to be entered as taught by Malcolm for the purpose of saving time in typing and minimizing error (paragraph [0002], lines 22-25, Malcolm). The skilled artisan would have been motivated to improve the invention of Kaler per the above such that value for the uninstantiated field can be selected from drop-down menu.

As to claims 25 and 28, Kaler-Zhang and Malcolm discloses the elements of claims 1(8), 9, and 7(16) as noted above: providing the user with a drop-down display that includes values that can be entered for the at least one field (paragraph [0017], lines 20-22, lines 34-35), entering a selection made by the user on the drop-down display (paragraph [0017], lines 37-39). Furthermore, Malcolm teaches that determining whether the selection made by the user results in a conflict (Figure 4, item 412, paragraph [0020], lines 34-43), if the determining step indicates no conflict, storing a value corresponds to the selection made by the user in the at least one field (Figure 4, item 414, paragraph [0020], lines 34-43), and if the determining step indicates a conflict, providing the user with the drop-down display to allow the user to enter in another value for the at least one field (Figure 4, item 416, paragraph [0020], lines 34-43). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to validate the user input to check if the input conflict with rule or others.

Response to Remarks

Applicant's amendments and remarks have been fully and carefully considered. In response, a new ground of claim analysis based with respect to claims 1-17 and 21-28 has been considered, but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

Regarding Applicant's arguments in page 10 that Kaler et al. (Kaler) do not teach or suggest "a storage specification generator for generating a storage specification for the document therefrom" and "generating of a storage specification that is used for storing of a document in a particular storage location" because Kaler describes that when two metadata elements are in conflict, one metadata element may replace the other metadata element, or they may be selectively intersected. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

First, instance Application discloses that a storage specification is data/information that specifies the class of the document (page 1, lines 15-18), i.e. storage specification is a metadata associated with the document. Furthermore, Application discloses, "a storage specification template comprises a plurality of fields" (page 4, lines 27-28) and the fields may be "retention, access control" (page 8, lines 1-2). Kaler teaches a system/method to use metadata to define access control to the file objects (paragraph [0008], lines 4-6, Figure 9). Therefore, Kaler teaches, "generating storage specification" (ACL metadata) for the document.

Second, in response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., generating of a storage specification that is used for storing of a document in a particular storage

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location) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Therefore, the Examiner's stance regarding the status of claims 1, 8 and all those claims depending from them remains the same as stated in the previous Office Action.

Regarding Applicant's arguments in pages 10 and 11 that Talati does not teach or suggest "a user query is utilized in order to receive data from a user in order to obtain user-inputted information to provide information to be inputted to the uninstantiated field" because Talati discloses in column 3, lines 53-67, an "instance" refers to a given condition or state of the values of attributes of dataset... and once the user selects an instance to be populated, it is not the user that performs the population of the attributes of the instant, but rather the computer (CSE) that populates the instant, as described in column 8, lines 43-50. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

It should be noted that neither the section described in column 3, lines 53-67, nor the section described in column 8, lines 43-50 is relied on in the rejection of claims 6 and 15. Thus how to define attribute values of active/empty instance is irrelevant. Furthermore, Kaler teaches objects with attributes associated with control function flags (column 5, lines 15-18) and an MFILL flag indicates that the attribute is one that user must instantiate (column 5, lines 29-30) and user instantiation function instantiates an instant through the user interface (column 7, lines 47-48). Therefore, when there is an uninstantiated field (attribute), the user will be prompt to enter value of the attribute as illustrated by Kaler that if the AMOUNT attribute value is not entered by the user (column 13, lines 41-55).

Therefore, the Examiner's stance regarding the status of claims 6 and 15 remains the same as stated in the previous Office Action.

Regarding Applicant's arguments in page 11 that Talati do not teach or suggest "at least one field common to the storage specification templates,...in order to obtain user-inputted information to provide information to be inputted to the at least one field to thereby reconcile the conflict" because Talati merely describes that invalid action rules are performed by a computer, and whereby a user can change a flag or add a propagation expression to correct a problem. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

First, Talati teaches that when conflict occurs user's action is required to correct the conflict as described in column 13, lines 33-37, "correction action can interact with the use through the input/output interface. It should be noted that Kaler teaches that conflicting metadata (storage specification) may be selected according to the most recent or superceding metadata element (paragraph [0047], lines 11-13) but does not specify that user query is used. The combination of Kaler and Talati teach using user input/output interface to select metadata element to resolve the conflict.

Second, in response to the amendment and newly added dependent claims, the Examiner has found a new prior art reference of Malcolm et al. (US Patent Application Publication, 2002/0165877), in combining with Kaler and Zhang for claim 7, 16 and all those claims depending from them. Please refer to the corresponding sections of the claim analysis for details.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

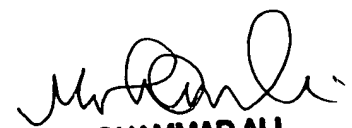
Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shew-Fen Lin whose telephone number is 571-272-2672. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Shew-Fen Lin
Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2166
June 9, 2006


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER